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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Shortage of Lead Tetraethyl

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1. an SAG plant, reporting by teletype letter that its lead tetraethyl stocks would be exhausted in some days, requested an allocation from stockpiles of the Soviet Zone Department for Supply. Up to that time, the SAG plants had been supplied with lead tetraethyl through the SAG Central Administration in Berlin-Weissensee. For this purpose, 184 tons of lead tetraethyl had come from the USSR in 1950. According to source, the sudden shortage in October can only be explained by the increased deliveries of gasoline, especially aviation gasoline, to the USSR and the Soviet Army.
2. The Department for Supply of the Ministry for Inner German Trade, Foreign Trade and Supply was unable to meet the requests of the SAG plants for the delivery of lead tetraethyl. It was attempted in vain to obtain lead tetraethyl from the USSR for Soviet Zone requirements. Upon inquiry Sellmann's secretariat indicated that no West mark funds would be released for this purpose in 1950.
3. On 11 August 1950, the DAHA obtained an offer of 100 kg of a compound to be delivered in sealed barrels for 1,350 DM F.O.B. German-Austrian border. * This compound was 60 percent lead tetraethyl, 17.5 percent ethyl bromide, 17.5 percent ethylene dichloride and 5 percent chloronaphthalene.
4. The import of 150 tons of lead tetraethyl from the USSR to the Soviet Zone of Germany is provided for 1951. **

* Comment: Presumably these are East marks. The firm which made this offer is unknown.

** Comment: The Soviet Zone annual requirements of lead tetraethyl are about 400 tons. If lead tetraethyl is not available, about 45,000 tons of ethyl alcohol will be needed. The demands of the SAG plants for additional supplies can hardly be met, because the Soviet Zone supply of these antiknock fuel agents is very poor.

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